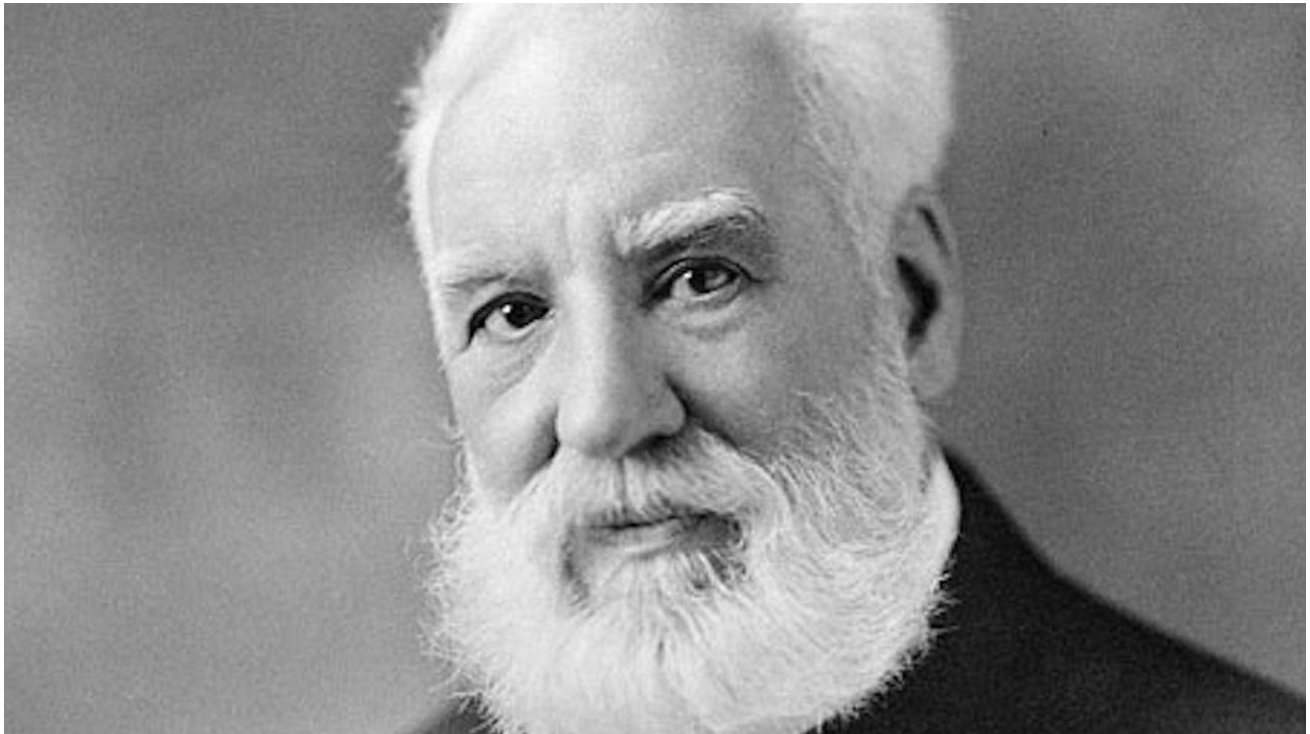


Inventors and Scientists: Alexander Graham Bell

By Biography.com Editors and A+E Networks, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.18.16
Word Count **381**



A photograph of Alexander Graham Bell, taken circa 1914-1919. Photo: Library and Archives Canada

Synopsis: Alexander Graham Bell was born in Scotland on March 3, 1847. His father studied voices and sound. Bell learned a lot from his father. He became an inventor. He worked with Thomas Watson on the first telephone. He died in 1922 in Canada.

Early Life

Alexander Graham Bell was born on March 3, 1847 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Scotland is a country in Europe near England. The middle name “Graham” was added when Bell was 10 years old.

Bell's grandfather and father studied voice and speech. His mother was nearly deaf. Deaf people cannot hear. Even though she could not hear, she became a very good piano player. Bell learned how to face hard problems from his mother.

Bell did not go to school. His mother taught him at home. She taught him to ask lots of questions about the world around him. He was very good at solving problems. He started inventing machines by the time he was 12.

Early Attempts To Follow His Passion

Bell cared for his grandfather when his grandfather got sick. His grandfather taught him to love learning. Bell began working with deaf people soon afterward. He was around 16 years old.

He then moved to Boston in 1871. He was 24 years old. He became interested in the idea of sending voice messages over wires. No one had been able to do this before. He worked on this idea with a man named Thomas Watson.

On March 10, 1876, Watson heard Bell's voice through the wire. This was the first telephone call.

Bell began to show off the telephone publicly. People all over the world were impressed by it.

Soon, more than 150,000 people in the United States owned telephones.

Pursuing His Passion In His Final Years

Bell loved learning. He established the Volta Laboratory in 1880. This was a space where scientists could make new discoveries. He also continued his work with deaf people. He established a group that helped to teach deaf people to speak.

Bell made the first cross-country phone call in 1915. He was in New York. He called his friend Thomas Watson in San Francisco.

Bell died peacefully in Nova Scotia, Canada, in 1922. He was 75 years old. All telephones were shut down for one minute to honor him.

Quiz

- 1 Read the paragraphs from the section "Early Attempts To Follow His Passion."

Bell began to show off the telephone publicly. People all over the world were impressed by it.

Soon, more than 150,000 people in the United States owned telephones.

What does the author mean by saying that people "were impressed" by the telephone?

- (A) People were confused by the telephone.
- (B) People thought the telephone was amazing.
- (C) People were not familiar with the telephone.
- (D) People thought the telephone was not useful.

- 2 Read the following sentence from the section "Pursuing His Passion In His Final Years".

He established a group that helped to teach deaf people to speak.

Which answer choice is CLOSEST in meaning to the word "established" as used in the sentence?

- (A) changed
- (B) followed
- (C) removed
- (D) organized

- 3 Which answer choice BEST describes the article's structure?

- (A) cause and effect
- (B) chronological order
- (C) problem and solution
- (D) compare and contrast

- 4 Read the section "Early Attempts To Follow His Passion".

Which paragraph tells about when Bell first started working on creating the telephone?

Answer Key

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Which paragraph tells about when Bell first started working on creating the telephone?

Paragraph 5:

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